

## Newark students victorious at ACT-SO

YES Page 3

## Jersey City holds 'Growth & Jobs Summit'

City Business Page 6

# CITY NEWS

THE NEW JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION

# Mayoral debate sparks town

*Huge crowd turns out for Plainfield meeting*

by Deborah Russell-Brown

It was billed as the first in a series of meetings, bringing candidates and citizens together, and for the 1500 Plainfield residents who packed Plainfield High School auditorium last Wednesday, watching the drama of local politics and campaigning was as informative as it was colorful.

"I really found this town meeting to be very informative and I was encouraged by the turnout," said lifelong resident Nora Monroe. "It shows that a lot of people are interested in who is going to represent them."

"A new era of involvement, seen during the presidential election has continued on the local level — you could see that from the turn-out alone," commented Jan Edgerton Johnson, City News executive editor and one of the meeting's press panelists. "I think it lifted the spirits of many Plainfielders who saw fellow citizens actively seeking answers to our city's problems, and candidates who represented those solutions."

Two weeks away from the filing deadline six mayoral hopefuls have their eye on City Hall. Incumbent Mayor Harold Mitchell has not declared his candidacy and did not attend Wednesday's forum.

Many people commented that they were surprised at the size of the field so early in the race.

"Last year you couldn't get two people to run for the school board and now for the mayoral election you've got at least six of us who think we can do a better job than the guy who's in there," quipped one hopeful.

Voters are being courted by a group that is diverse as it is large. There's an entrepreneur who owns one of the state's largest maintenance corporations, a community activist, a corporate attorney,

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a project manager, a scientist and a personnel recruiter. One candidate told the audience he was an independent, while others clearly pointed to a side of the political aisle.

The Plainfield Board of Education and Assemblyman Gerald Green (D-17th District), who co-sponsored the town meeting, had the six candidates, Malcolm Dunn, Robert Ferraro and Mark Fury, George Gore, Easter Frazier and Ted Preobuda field questions from three members of the media and two high school students.

Union County College President Dr. Joseph Brown moderated the debate and said at the end of the meeting, "Between the professional manner of the candidates and the informal questioning by the panel of reporters, you have received a high quality production rivaling ABC, NBC and the major networks."

The program began with each candidate giving a three-minute opening. After the introductory remarks, panel members asked candidates questions, several of which were answered by the entire field.

On the subject of drugs Ferraro came down hard on law enforcement, calling for a police sector plan he described as "a police task force as a study beat. But Gore, Fury and Frazier emphasized the human side, focusing on those at risk in the community, including the town's youth.

"We have to instill family values," commented Frazier.

Meanwhile Preobuda pointed the finger at outsiders, who he says think Plainfield is a one-stop shopping center for drugs.

On another issue, a reporter asked how the historians' feud relationship between the Mayor and the City Council would be healed.

Gore said that as Mayor or he would present a focused agenda and enough information to Council members to prevent backbiting. Fury stressed that, as a Democrat, he would smooth out the troubling relationship, while Ferraro said he'd offer leadership.

The mayor's four-year term has historically been a part-time job. Four of the six candidates said they'd like to see the job expanded to an eight-hour-a-day job. The other two, Dunn and Ferraro, both said the increased time was not necessary.

Ferraro drew scattered applause for a lot of his answers but one woman noted he seemed to think all the city's answers lay in re-opening the dump. His stock answer to questions relevant to garbage as well as welfare was he would open the transfer station within 30 days of getting elected.

No one candidate left the meeting with a mandate for city hall, although Fury's answers stirred a lot of comment, both good and bad.

"I was impressed with a lot of things Mark Fury said," answered Rosalind Bradshaw when asked who she was leaning towards. However many others said they found him arrogant.

"I felt all the candidates acted in a professional manner," said

(continued on page 2)

## Just a memory... or is it?



## Paterson Habitat calls for volunteers

*Former President Jimmy Carter, Gov. Jim Florio and Mayor William Pascrell lend support*

PATERSON—This is the time of year when resolutions are made, noted Anthony Sinacore, president of Paterson Habitat for Humanity. "Many of us passionately resolve to implement changes in our lives in order to give our lives more meaning. But anyone wishing to make a truly meaningful New Year's resolution for 1993, would do well to join people all over the world and consider becoming a Habitat volunteer."

Paterson's Mayor William Pascrell urged prospective Habitat volunteers "to join with me...become a Habitat partner...support this needed, valuable, practical and committed organization."

Paterson Habitat, one of more than 700 affiliates in the world,

including 600 in the United States, builds homes in partnership with needy families using donations from individuals, churches and businesses. Habitat volunteers work side by side with the families in the construction.

Sinacore stated that "by making home ownership possible, Habitat also helps rebuild lives and neighborhoods."

Sinacore gave Paterson Habitat's year-end report to the board of directors and noted that in 1992, Habitat volunteers were on the job a total of 33 weeks. The organization averaged a total of 60 new volunteers in 1992. According to a research questionnaire, 100 percent of the volunteers

"said they had a good experience and would do it again."

Sinacore noted that Department of Labor statistics indicate that throughout the country, 232 million Americans volunteered 19.5 billion hours of their time last year, which carried a monetary value of approximately \$150 billion.

Sinacore stated that volunteer help is needed not only for construction, but also for secretarial, data entry/word processing, cleanup, organizing events and running errands. Those interested in volunteering or receiving more information may call the Paterson Habitat for Humanity office at 201-278-4280.

## Spring '93 Special Church Supplement

INSERT

**EO political pot boils  
as Connie sees it**

Opinion Page 4



Kenny Anderson, guard for the New Jersey Nets

## NJ b-ball star lobs one over the net

*Newark school honors Kenny Anderson and remembers Arthur Ashe*

by Deborah Russell-Brown

cheering youngsters.

His left arm cradled in a cast, Anderson gripped a microphone and spoke of Ashe, as well as his own deep desire to succeed in sports and stay positive and motivated. Looking at the young faces, the star urged students to forget the naysayers and believe in their own potential.

"When I was your age I decided to go to a Catholic school, Archbishop Molloy, because of its good basketball program," Anderson said. "But I needed to pass entrance exams to get in. A lot of people around me said I wasn't good enough, but I wanted to be able to finish my work and compete."

"But I thought I could do it. Every time I needed help, I stayed after school. I asked teachers, I even asked the tennis kids in class, for help. It paid off, because I passed the exams with flying colors," said Anderson. "Never count yourself out."

The genesis of the "Role Model For Excellence" program came from Principal Joseph Parlavecchio's in (continued on page 2)

## NHA celebrates construction start of 124 new townhouses

**NEWARK**—The Newark Housing Authority (NHA) celebrated the construction start of 124 new townhouse units in the Central Ward on March 17 in a ceremony held by Muhammad Ali Avenue and Livingston Street.

"This marks the second new construction project undertaken by the NHA in the last five months, and it is anticipated that all 1777 units in the NHA will be scheduled to fulfill its plan to build 1,777 new public housing units over the next four years," declared NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas.

Last October the NHA began construction of 100 townhouse units in the South and Central Wards, the first new construction since 1988. Lucas explained that the latest development, designated as NJ2-39, will be constructed at three sites in the Central Ward.

Of the 124 units, 84 will be on Irvine Turner Boulevard, 20 units will be constructed on Muhammad Ali Avenue and Livingston Street, and 20 townhouses on Bergen Street, and 18th Avenue. The 124 units will consist of 81 three-bedrooms, 24 four-

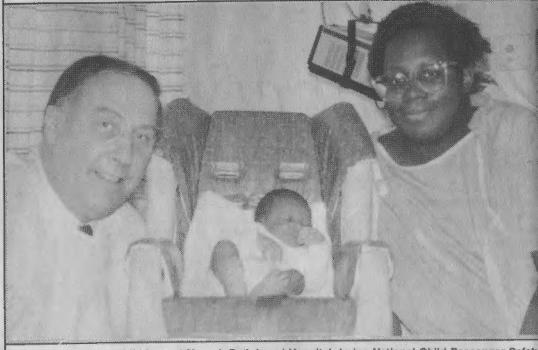
bedrooms, and 10 five-bedrooms. An additional nine duplex units will be specifically for individuals with handicapping conditions, including the physically challenged persons as well as those who are visually and hearing impaired.

"This \$11.2 million project is being financed by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency through the continuing efforts of a special federal, state and city Task Force," said Lucas.

The Task Force, chaired by Newark Mayor Sharpe James, comprised of Harold Lucas of the NHA; Burton Bloomberg, acting regional administrator of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Diane Johnson, deputy manager at Newark's HUD Office; Commissioner Stephanie Bush of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and Christina Foglio, executive director of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency.

DKM Building Enterprises of Lawrenceville is the developer selected to build the 124 townhouse units.

# First safe ride



For Jawan, the first child born at Newark Beth Israel Hospital during National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week (February 8-14), his first ride home means a safe journey to the New Jersey Automobile Club Foundation for Safety. The Florham Park based organization presented Jawan and his mother, Carie Anderson, with a special gift basket at the hospital. The Foundation sponsored the program at Newark Beth Israel and eleven other area hospitals to remind parents to make child safety seats a priority in their new babies' lives. Correct safety seat use can prevent approximately 53,000 injuries and save 500 lives each year. Showing off Jawan's new infant safety seat are AAA's safety manager, Paul Kielblock and Jawan's mother, Carie.

## Newark school honors Kenny Anderson & Arthur Ashe

(continued from page 1) involvement with Arthur Ashe's ABC - Ashe/Bollettieri Tennis Camps." Parlaevchio, who is also an Essex County Freeholder, was among the county officials who participated in the free use of the park and City of Newark tennis courts for Ashe's inner city year-round youth program.

"When we first decided to set up a role model program last year, Arthur Ashe came to mind," commented Parlaevchio. "I mean who better exemplifies the best in caring, successful role models?"

Ashe, a world class champion, was the first African-American to win the US Open and Wimbledon. He died in February from complications due to AIDS.

Choosing Anderson was a joint effort between Dayton officials and their corporate "buddy" Nabisco Foods.

Parlaevchio explained that Nabisco has an on-going corporate relationship with the NJ Nets youth programs, and that Dayton Street School officials asked Nabisco to choose a few Nets players who's lives, on and off the court, would be good examples for young people.

Anderson was chosen for his personal achievements in succeeding in a tough New York City parochial program at the high school level; for his outstanding career at Georgia Tech and his involvement on the international level at the Goodwill Games and the World Championship.

Anderson, the second-overall pick in the NBA 1991 draft, had been averaging 17 points a game and was among the top ten in the NBA for assists before getting injured. He broke his left wrist in a game against the New York Knicks in February.



## State's First Lady honored

First Lady Lucinda Florio joins New Jersey Network officials and producers of "Around and About New Jersey," a series of 15-minute programs about historical places in the state, which received an Emmy Award for Outstanding Children's Programming/Series at the Emmy's regional competition. Mrs. Florio, a former elementary school teacher, introduces each program. The series is broadcast on New Jersey Network during the daytime instructional schedule and is available for purchase through NJN Video and for loan at many New Jersey libraries. Pictured (l-r) are Harvey Fisher, Executive Director of New Jersey Network; David Cohen, series producer; the First Lady; Walter F. Mondale, series Executive Producer; and Lou Presti, series Director.

### Volunteer mentors sought

NEWARK — The Michael R. Irby Mentoring Program is seeking volunteers to serve as mentors.

Established in 1991 through the efforts of the State Martin Luther King Commission and the Friendly Fund Neighborhood Centers, Inc., the program operates Saturday mornings between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Currently assisting 75-90 youngsters from throughout the Greater Newark Community, the program provides individualized reading and group reading sessions; computer training in basic skills; trips to cultural, business and government organizations and workshops in creative arts.

For more information contact Joseph Greer, 201-733-3850, or Geraldine Smith, 201-648-4911.

### Plainfield mayoral debate

(continued from page 1) semiblonym Green at the end of the debate.

It was happy that the discussion never sank to name-calling or any derogatory behavior," added Brown.

While the debate stayed calm, residents saw wildly disparate answers. Pruhokha and Fraizer said they would actively court outside investment and talent to revitalize the city. Fury simply shook his head saying Plainfield had ample resources

to solve its problems, if organized and lead properly.

At the town meeting being held so early in the primary season, some did question how seriously they could take the candidates.

"To me, this was kind of a pre-election rap session," said Robert Edwards, a community housing activist. "We need a little time to find out who these people really are, what are their issues and which ones have the ability to run a viable campaign."

## Community Calendar

NOW THRU MAY 1

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Public Library will hold its preschool story hour weekly. For more info call 201-547-4509.

TUESDAYS, THRU MAY 25

SCOTT PLAINS — Individuals with disabilities may enjoy open swim with the Union County Division of Parks and Recreation every Tuesday from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. at the YMCA. Price is \$1.00 per person. YMCA, 1340 Martine Avenue, free of charge. Persons requiring assistance in either the water or the locker room should bring a chaperone. For more info call 908-655-1655.

EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

IRVINGTON — The Irvington Health Department has a free baby clinic in the afternoon for ages newborn to 5 years of age at Irvington General Hospital. Make an appointment by calling 399-6652.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Board of Education will conduct a public hearing on the 1993-94 Budget at the Plainfield High School Library on April 100 at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

NEW BRUNSWICK — Roger Wood-Johnson University Hospital will offer a series of Community Health Education Events, that will run through April 30th for list of events and more information call 908-222-5000.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

NEW YORK — The Film Society of Lincoln Center presents "Modern Days," Aesop's Night. The Years of African Patriarchy. The film will run through April 30th, at the Walter Reade Theater 165 West 65th Street, Plaza Level.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

WAYNE-WILLIAMSON College to hold a lecture series at 8:00 a.m. the guest speaker will be Dick Cheney, who served as Vice President under George Bush.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

ELIZABETH-Union County Board of Commissioners will have an open house spring session of Shabazz and Tone for people who have had遭受es under the direction of Parks and Recreation, the program will run through May 20th at

Newark Public Library at 201-733-7793, located at 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ.

NEWARK-Friends of the Newark Public Library will hold its Second Annual Book Sale at 8:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Centennial Hall of the Municipal Library, 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ. For more information call 201-733-7744.

TRENTON—West Indian fiction writer, novelist, Jamaica Kincaid will offer a presentation at 4:30 p.m. in Clayton R. Brower Student Center at Trenton State College. Call 609-233-7711.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Board of Central New Jersey will conduct a sale of excellent condition, used maternity and children's spring and summer clothing for 3 days at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 900 Crescent Avenue, 2nd floor, Plainfield, NJ. The sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. Only cash will be accepted. For more information call 908-561-1751.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 3

## KIDS Kalendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

**NEW YORK**—Bronx Zoo will open for their Spring season, Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends and holidays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For admission prices or other information call 718-597-1010.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

**TRENTON**—New Jersey State Museum will be open Saturday, July 3, featuring a planetarium show by 8 p.m. over the Easter break. The museum is located at 205 W. State Street and is open Thursday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 609-232-6464.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

**GLEN COVE**—Bronx College Open House—High school juniors, seniors and their parents are invited to the day's activities, beginning at 1 p.m. in the Wilson Concert Hall. For more information call 609-865-5347.

**JERSEY CITY**—Jersey City State College Open House on the college campus, 200 University Avenue, is open to invited. Registration begins at 11 a.m. in Margaret Williams Theatre of Hepburn Hall. For more information call 201-200-3234.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

**FARHILLS-SOMERS** Art Association, Inc. will be offering a program for preschoolers, ages 3 to 5, entitled "Mosaic Fun." The cost for the program will run through May 12, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Cost for members is \$4.20 and \$5.00 for non-members. For information call 908-294-2343.

**NEWARK**—A total of 26 students representing various Newark high schools participated in the fourth annual statewide competition of the Afro Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) and brought home 22 medals.

More than 350 students from around the state converged at Arthur J. Holland Middle School in Newark where the competition was held, to compete in 24 categories ranging from Physics to Dance. Newark ACT-SO was a part of the northern region which included Paterson, Morrisville, Montclair, Parsippany, Teaneck, Hackensack and Summit.

"This is just a slight indication of the ability of our students," said Jacqueline Lawrence, president of the Newark NAACP branch. "We look forward to more and more students becoming involved with ACT-SO. The parents also gave a lot of support."

One of the gold medalists, Nicole Tucker, a senior at University High, won medals in Poetry and Computer Science last year. This year, she won a gold medal in Architecture and a silver in Oratory.



Nicole Tucker of University High in Newark captured both a gold medal in Architecture and a silver medal in Oratory in this year's ACT-SO competition, sponsored by the National NAACP.

"I felt I didn't have to limit myself and it felt good to see I could do well in other categories," Tucker said. "I also benefited a lot from my mentors."

"This year we introduced the mentor component of ACT-SO and we were very pleased with the responses received from adults," said Deborah Smith, Newark ACT-SO coordinator. "Next year we intend to expand and really develop that portion of the competition."

William Finch, a senior at Sci-High High, won a silver medal last year in Physics and returned this year to capture the gold in that category.

"I am so happy. I learned a lot by going to the national competition in Nashville," Finch said. This year he will return to the national ACT-SO competition, to be held at the National NAACP Convention in Gary, Indiana this July.

"I feel great and I'm glad I got involved," said first-time-winner Khalilah Goins, a sophomore at Arts High who won a gold medal in Drama.

Other Gold medalists include: Ny-tesha Weems of Science High for Chemistry; Keisha Chappigne of Science High for Painting; Cantave Philistin of Arts High for Painting and Sculpture; and Anna McNeil of Barringer High for Vocal Music Com-

ttemporary.

Silver medalists were: Timia Wilson of University High for Original Essay; Aseanah Gibbons of University High for Music Instrumental; Alexis Jeft of Arts High for Drawing; Cleavon McCants of Barringer High for Vocal Music Classical; Anita Nicolson of Oak Knoll High for Computer Science; Pia Garbar of Arts High for Painting; and Nadiyah Rodgers of Arts High for Sculpture.

Bronze medalists were: Alicia Simmons of Barringer High for Oratory; Kycied Zahir of Arts High for Painting; Elaine Jones of Arts High for Drawing; Taisha Edwards of Arts High for Playwriting; Anita Nicolson of Oak Knoll High for Poetry; and Charissa Neal of Chad Science Academy for Video/Filmaking.

"We are extremely proud of all the students who represented the Newark NAACP branch," said Lawrence. "Some students are painted in such a negative light and we forget about the positive ones who are trying to make a way in our society."

ACT-SO is a major project of the national NAACP designed to recognize the academic and cultural prowess of African American youths. The competition is conducted in the areas of the sciences, humanities, performing arts and visual arts.

## EO sponsors 'Girl Scout Citizenship Day'

**EAST ORANGE**—Mayor Cardell Cooper met with girl scout representatives from over thirty East Orange troops in an annual observance of "Old Scout Citizenship Day" on March 8. The day's program was part of the week-long observance of "Girl Scout Week" to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of America.

Prior to a wreath laying ceremony at the statue of President Abraham Lincoln in front of City Hall, Mayor Cooper addressed an audience of approximately fifty scouts and advisors representing the City's Daisies, Brownies, Juniors and Seniors.

With Nicole Smith of Troop 317, the designated Girl Scout Mayor for the day, at his side Mayor Cooper expressed pride in the scouts and com-

mended them for their participation in community programs and activities.

"You young women set a shining example for others to follow," he said.

After the ceremony the scouts boarded a bus for a day-long trip to the Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Youngsters placing first and second in the preliminary meet at Plainfield will qualify to participate in the Eastern Regional Championships.

"I encourage all East Orange adults to take a few hours from their busy schedules to afford our youth the opportunity to reap the benefits that come from scouting," the Mayor said.

After the field trip, the scouts participated in the evening's regular City Council meeting.

For more information about scouting, call 201-746-8200.

## Compete in ARCO Games

**PLAINFIELD**—Local boys and girls born 1979-1986 are eligible to participate in the ARCO Jesse Owens Games on Saturday, May 15.

Youngsters placing first and second in the preliminary meet at Plainfield will qualify to participate in the Eastern Regional Championships.

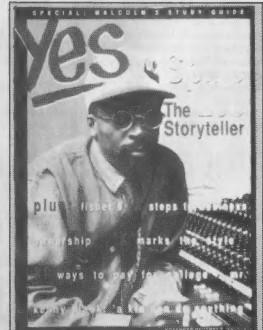
to be held at LaSalle University in Philadelphia on June 26.

Complete eligibility information is available from John Pepe, 908-753-3096, at Plainfield City Hall. Completed applications must be returned to the Plainfield Division of Recreation no later than April 30.

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*The teen resource guide for understanding the world and how to succeed in it*



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### DST Scholarship Luncheon

**JERSEY CITY**—The North Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is sponsoring its annual Scholarship Luncheon to benefit college bound and matriculating students. The luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 3, at 11 a.m. at the Sheraton Meadowlands. For more info call 201-926-2710.

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Hoechst Celanese volunteer Melissa Austin coaches two Jefferson School Drama students during a Saturday morning rehearsal.

## EDITORIAL

*Choosing a successor*

There has been a great deal of talk about who is best suited to replace Benjamin Hooks as head of the NAACP. Many people, today, have a negative opinion of the NAACP. Many people wonder whom, exactly, the organization is supposed to represent. Within the group itself there has been discussion about where the organization should be headed in the future.

In light of the declining image of the NAACP, it is important that the search committee choose a leader who will be able to boost the image of the organization, rekindle the pride that it once incited and prepare it to move forward, strongly and deliberately, into the 21st century. The person who could be such a leader is the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Rev. Jackson is a high-profile, highly respected individual whose personal image could only bring a positive energy to the NAACP. Besides being well respected within the black community, Rev. Jackson has earned the respect of members of many other ethnic communities throughout the nation. He is also in touch with people, of color and otherwise, internationally.

The head of both the National Rainbow Coalition and Operation PUSH, Jackson has proven his interest in fighting for justice, equality and the welfare of our young people. Most importantly, however, is the fact that Rev. Jackson was able to run for president and gain votes nationally. Considering both his achievements, and the fact that so many people, of so many different walks of life were confident that he could lead the country as president, we are confident that Rev. Jackson can lead the NAACP.

Because of his experiences with the Civil Rights Movement and the continuing struggle for the advancement of oppressed people, Jackson will be able to continue the tradition of the NAACP. Because of his stature, both nationally and internationally, the organization will be able to broaden its spectrum of support. Jackson, while helping the group to refocus its energies, will bring a fresh, new spirit to the sometimes complacent organization.

We believe that the other candidates — Rev. Benjamin Chavis, head of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice; Jewell Jackson-McCabe, founder of the Coalition of 100 Black Women; and Earl Shrimpton, NAACP Southeastern regional director — have shown exemplary leadership and may be capable of running the NAACP. Rev. Jesse Jackson is unquestionably the best choice for the position. He should undoubtedly be chosen for the position if it is indeed what he wants.

**American Cancer Society applauds Sen. Bill Bradley**

*Dear Editor:*

It has been nearly thirty years since the Surgeon General of the United States first warned the nation of the dangers of cigarette smoking. Yet one-fourth of adults remain addicted and smoking is still the number one cause of preventable death. Smoking now kills more Americans each year than alcohol, heroin, crack, automobile and airplane accidents, homicides, suicides, and AIDS combined. Each year tobacco use kills 434,000 Americans.

Despite the fact that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to children, three thousand teenagers a day begin smoking before the age of 18. This onset of smoking by teenagers is no accident, but, rather, a result of marketing strategies and advertising campaigns directly and specifically aimed at children and teenagers to replace those smokers who either die or quit. Tobacco companies spend nearly \$4 billion each year on youth-oriented advertising designed to promote smoking as sophisticated and sexy. If we can prevent the onset of smoking by our young people, we can make tremendous strides in reducing the burden of addiction, death, and disease smoking imposes on the health and economy of the United States.

The New Jersey Division of the American Cancer Society applauds Sen. Bill Bradley for proposing to raise the federal excise tax on cigarettes from 24 cents to \$1 a pack. A substantial increase in the tax on tobacco products is one of the most effective methods for significantly reducing tobacco use among adults and children.

Marguerite K. Schlag, Ed.D.  
Chairman  
American Cancer Society  
New Jersey Division, Inc.

Paul E. Wallner, D.O.  
President  
American Cancer Society  
New Jersey Division, Inc.

**Quote of the Week**

*"I thought I could do it. Every time I needed help, I stayed after school. I asked teachers,*

*I even asked the smart kids in class, for help. It paid off...Never count yourself out."*

**Kenny Anderson**  
NJ Nets

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**OPINION**

by Connie Woodruff

The political pot continues to boil in East Orange where it appears record numbers of candidates will be in the running for one of five city council seats up for grabs.

In addition to incumbent council members, some familiar names appear on the list of those persons who have taken out petitions to run in the June primary election: Bob Beaver, an anticipated candidate for mayor, may be running for the Third Ward council seat according to an informed source; former recreation director Carole Clark announced for the council this week and will be running in the Fifth Ward.

Jimmie Smalls, president of the East Orange Board of Education, has filed against Beaver, while Debra Jennings, a former member of Clark's opponents, Ex-Freshwater Corrina Cole, is set for an all-out fight to capture a seat in the Second Ward, and former councilwoman Beverly Williams will try for a comeback in the First Ward.

In the meantime, some frantic backroom politics, in an effort to end the so-called "feud" between popular

**As I See It...**

Mayor Caldwell Cooper and County Executive Tom D'Alesio, has ended in another deadlock without either side giving in.

So it appears that by press time D'Alesio will still call the shots for which candidates will run under the banner of the Regular Democratic Party designation while those who support Cooper for re-election will be placed elsewhere on the ballot.

Cooper will have a major fund-raiser on April 10, and the size of the crowd will be a barometer of his popularity, and some indication of how well he will do without the advantage of running on the Democratic Party "line."

In Orange, the super-discrepancy

intimate with the political ambitions of Mayor Caldwell Brown, insist he will not run for his fourth term for State Senator.

When we spoke to Mayor Brown about the possibility of challenging incumbent State Senator Cody, he reminded us that when he ran for his Assembly seat two years ago his real target had been the state senate. Serving in the Assembly gave him the experience and exposure his campaign

advisors deemed necessary to prepare him for service as a senator.

He declined to say whether or not he will be running on the Regular Democratic Party line. However, D'Alesio, as county chairman and chief architect for designated party candidates, may well offer Brown the opportunity to run "on the line" since Cody is expected to be a running mate of Mayor Cooper.

Hints that Brown would move from the Assembly to the Senate began facing about a year ago, and since that time he has been busily courting prospective voters in Montclair who were included in the 26th legislative district in the new legislative alignment.

Later, it was seen Mayor Brown

lately that he'll be seeking his much ailing physician. According to his friends, he's in "fighting shape and ready to do battle with Senator Cody." One of the top people in his office is Debra Jennings, a young political activist and women's advocate in Montclair. She has the potential for helping her boss in his quest for votes from the new district.

At any rate, those anxious to "draft"

the mayor want to know that

since he entered the political arena as a candidate, the long range goal has always been Cody's State Senate seat. And that's the way it is.

!!!

During his hey day, the late Newark councilman-at-large Earl Harris was known as one of the most volatile members on the council. As council president he would put on a good show of putting his council colleagues down, and heated arguments and shouting matches were the norm rather than the exception.

He would probably enjoy today's East Orange council meeting — where was between council members may break out at any time over the most trivial topics.

It happened again last week, and not surprisingly, the argument was between supporters of Mayor Cooper and City Council President Stephen Thomas.

Other councilpersons who became part of the shouting match between Thomas and councilwoman Yvonne Blake, included council vice chair, Carolyn Meacham and Phil Thigpen.

So much for the "peace pact." Thomas and Blake agreed to last year.

(continued on page 10)

**The importance of the NAACP**  
*Remembering its achievements throughout history and choosing leadership that will prepare it for the future*

by Sharon Khadijah Vincent

It's ironic that the NAACP finds itself at a critical crossroad in its history — struggling to find a replacement for Benjamin Hooks as head of the organization, and to define the role it wants to play in these turbulent times — as we continue to fight for human and equal rights for African Americans and other oppressed minorities. What many view as a classic struggle between the old and the new, or what some feel is a generational struggle, is in fact similar to the tensions and issues which lead to the founding of the NAACP in 1909.

Tensions between old abolitionists, various other so-called white liberals, and African Americans who agree more with the views articulated by Booker T. Washington — as opposed to those espoused by those who considered either "radical" or "militant" at that time, such as W.E.B. Dubois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and William Monroe Trotter — are historic reminders of this ongoing process of struggle and change which inevitably takes place between new and old methods and tactics.

The mainstream media's attempts to cast the present day struggle in a negative light, or to try to make it a battle between personalities, clearly

points out their failure to appreciate, or understand the history of the NAACP or African history in general. The shallow analyses being written up in the white mainstream press, appear to be more focused on making side swipes at the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who is one of the individuals being considered to replace Benjamin Hooks.

While there are many comments and quotes about what various people think about whether Jackson should get the job or not, and what they would do if he did, the lack of background information is often about either党员和 their views or opinions about which direction they believe the NAACP should go as we move toward the year 2000. There is a lot of discussion about who could best promote the image of the NAACP, yet, hardly any mention about the bleak realities or images which young African-American children face or see every day in their communities.

We should reject any attempt by the mainstream media to trivialize the current situation in the NAACP and its search for new leadership. We need to spend this time talking with young people, and acquainting them with the rich history of this organization. Many hold a very negative and false view of the NAACP and the role it has played in the history of our people. Whoever one might think about the current status or direction of the NAACP, it can not be denied that it has made major signifi-

cant contributions in helping to fight racism, and intolerance in this country.

Just as strategies and tactics were formed — as a result of the debate and discussions which took place inside and outside of the organization — that lead to effective and bold actions during the early 1900's and into the turbulent 50's and 60's, new strategies can and will develop from the debate going on today. It's actually good that the organization is having this debate about which direction it needs to take. It's good that members are concerned about the future of the NAACP, and that the membership has basically become too complacent and the organization unfocused.

These are positive developments within the NAACP, and will bring about needed changes. For those who think that it has had its day, it would be good for them to remember that we can learn a lot from studying the history of the organization and the outstanding individuals who have been involved with it over the years. Few can point to a record of such longevity, which the NAACP enjoys and should not be taken lightly. The wisdom and experience of those individuals who committed themselves to the advancement of our people should be utilized and not laughed at or put aside. Even while we make room for the new leadership which must come forward, in order to keep the organization fresh and revitalized.

**Leanin' on the government**

by William Reed

Most blacks think that the government is the answer to our woeful economic and social situation.

When the Urban League announces its annual "State of Black America" report, most people can tell you what you already know: the report will lay our social condition bare. In addition to the sad numbers in education, employment and housing, most people already know that the Urban League will say that these conditions can only be overcome by the government helping us, through the League of course, with grants, public sector jobs and improved welfare.

Blacks' reliance on the government is reflected by the importance we put on politics. African Americans cast their votes in droves for Governor Bill Clinton, and now that he is president we expect him to "take care of us." Clinton's recent proposal to help stimulate the economy, and inner-city employment, by pumping an extra \$1 billion into summer jobs programs for disadvantaged youths from black organizations such as the Urban League, NAACP and community groups from Philadelphia to Phoenix. And, black elected officials in these areas can't wait until Clinton, and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, release \$6.5 billion in Community Development Block Grants during fiscal year 1994 to "kickstart" in every urban pot."

But, organized black groups, elected officials and the "underclass" of the country, evidently don't tremble because of historical, or African and America. Although Afrocen-

tric achievements in personal accomplishments go even further back, when our European forefathers arrived on these shores there still was no welfare system safety net.

In the early days of Africa, and in Colonial America, each person was responsible for his or her own financial welfare. When the slaves ran North on the Underground Railway, and with the pioneers crossed the plains, there was no unemployment compensation. When they had to scratch out their own existence.

When thousands of European immigrants landed here in the early 1900's, they seeking only the opportunity to work and to be free. Somewhere between then and now, there has been almost destructive shift in public thinking, and actions, across the nation.

Whether it is on a farm in Iowa, or housing projects in Harlem, people have ceased to assume personal responsibility for their financial well-being and instead assume that the government is responsible for everything. From claiming their streets to their homes, to turning from the voters to the government to bail out everything from defunct major corporations, to defense contractors, to insolvent municipalities.

But when the rubber reaches the road for America, we will find that the government is not responsible for our personal well-being. Salvation from the government is not the answer. The answer lies in us. We alone are responsible for our ultimate financial welfare.

While the Clinton summer jobs program is expected to create 500,000

new jobs, most economists say that it is little more than fire insurance for the nation's cities and expects the program will do little toward providing urban youth useful job training or opening new gateways for their long-term employment prospects. The block grants are supposed to help lower-income people, but if history is any indication, getting these monies to poor urban residents through local politicians and "administrators," will be like the food chain of feeding elephants to feed sparrows.

As a group, we have the resources to stop waiting for handouts from Uncle Sam. Isn't it time that we leaned on each other again? Collective work and investments in our families, churches and among success oriented friends will yield more results than the government ever will.

William Reed is president of the Business Exchange Network, publisher of "Who's Who in Black Corporate America" and is located at 1063 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045 202-588-5764.

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# CITY LIFE

## Billboard

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

**ELIZABETH**—Props Theaterworks thespians will present Ousmane Sembene's award-winning play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf." The performance will begin at 12:30 p.m., Union County College's Career Institute. For information call 908-492-6017.

APRIL 1 THRU 4

**NEW YORK**—The Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble will present its second annual New York season at Aaron Davis Hall on City College. For more information call 212-490-7100.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

**NEW YORK**—An Opening Night Gala benefit performance by The Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble will open off the year's 35th birthday celebration of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater Foundation. For more information call 212-767-0500 ext. 321.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

**WESTBURY, NY**—Reggae music superstars Black Uhuru, Andrew Tosh and The Wailers will be joined by dancehall king Little Rankin at Westbury Music Fair for "Hoodlum's Bash" at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50. For tickets or information call 516-334-0900.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

**NEW YORK**—The Blue Note Jazz Club & Restaurant will host tribute to the Blue Note Era, starting at 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. Ben Duncan of WBGQ will be the Master of Ceremonies. Admission is free, open to the public. The Blue Note is located at 131 West 3rd Street, New York City.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

**NEW YORK**—The Apollo Theatre will feature artists Chaka Khan, Philip Bailey, Hugh Masekela, Gerald Alston, Kelli Maroney, Michael Sembello, Shalamar and Kazz Muzik on Easter Sunday, for two shows, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Call the theatre, located at 235 West 125th Street, for more information.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

**HARLEM, NY**—Jazz legend Dorothy Donegan and fresh, young keyboardist Ifeachor Okere Jazz Ensemble will perform at the Schomburg Center at 7 p.m. For tickets call 212-491-2206.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

**NEW YORK CITY**—Stephanie Mills returns to the New York stage as Dorothy in "The Wiz" for a limited engagement. Performances will be at the Beacon Theatre, 14th Avenue, Broadway. For more information contact Trend Candy at 212-489-6745.

# 'Modern Days, Ancient Nights: Thirty years of African filmmaking'

*NY's Largest African film festival to showcase works of Ousmane Sembene*

**NEW YORK**—The Film Society of Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater and the African Film Festival, Inc., are proud to present "Modern Days, Ancient Nights: Thirty Years of African Filmmaking," April 2 to 30.

Made possible with funding from The Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, this program will be the largest African film festival ever held in New York. The month-long program will feature thirty-seven films by African filmmakers from

twelve countries, including recognized "classics," brand new features from emerging young filmmakers, and a tribute to the work of Senegalese filmmaker Ousmane Sembene—the "father of African filmmaking," who, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, this program is dedicated.

In addition, a selection of 12 films from the series will be presented in the Cantor Auditorium at the Brooklyn Museum, on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, April 17 through May 23, at

12:30 p.m. Each screening will consist of two films followed by a guest speaker.

According to Richard Peña, program director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center, "African cinema is evolving into just that—a continental-wide phenomenon, not just the product of two or three nations."

The Festival will be the Film Society of Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater's three-part examination of African cinema. Sembene films will be screened on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; "classic" films

on Thursdays and Fridays, and the new African films on Saturdays and Sundays throughout April.

"Ousmane Sembene's 'Black Light: The Dawn of African Cinema'" will feature nine works by the Senegalese director. The Festival will present his first film, "Borom Sarret," as well as the U.S. premiere and a brief run of his latest film, "Guelwaar."

Although African films were already being made in Europe and in Africa, Sembene's simple yet elegant

tale of a Dakar cart-driver in "Borom Sarret" emerged as a revolutionary vision the likes of which the world had never before seen. When it debuted in 1963, the 20-minute film signaled a post-colonial, indigenous voice and perspective coming into its own in a stark and evocative fashion.

Sembene, once again exploring contemporary African politics and tradition in his latest film, "Guelwaar," the story of a political activist who dies violently;

(continued on page 10)

## African-American media moguls announce launch of world's first premium cable network for the African-American community

**LOS ANGELES, CA**—World African Network has officially unveiled plans to launch the world's first premium cable network to provide programming specifically for the 35 million African Americans in the United States.

Eugene Jackson, president and chairman of Unity Broadcasting, Inc., the parent company of World African Network, said, "We are going to take an aggressive approach in the management of our images," said Jackson.

World African Network will launch in June 1994, bringing together a team of top African-American business and entertainment luminaries. With startup costs projected at approximately \$15 million, Jackson, who serves as chairman and chief executive of World African Network, added that the launch of the new cable network will culminate a three-year dream of his to bring high-quality, socially responsible programming to the African-American community.

Jackson who retains a controlling interest in World African Network's equity partnership, will handle the daily operation and administration of the cable network.

World African Network's other founding partners include Percy Sutton, chairman emeritus of Inner City Broadcasting Corp. and general partner of New York's Apollo Theater Foundation; Phyllis Tucker Vinson, former vice president of children's and family programs for the NBC television network; Clarence

Avant, owner of Taboo Records as well as worldwide publishing companies Avant Garde Music and Interior Music; and Sidney Small, co-founder of the Unity Broadcasting Network and National Black Network.

The World African Network will air 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with programming focusing both existing and original entertainment. Existing programming will include theatrical releases, movies, both from major studios and independent producers, made-for-television movies, selected television series, concerts, sports and documentary programs.

Original programming will be designed to provide an African-American perspective on existing programs. This will include profiles of and interviews with celebrities and newsmakers as well as a behind-the-scenes look at film, television, music and sports figures from the African-American community.

Designed to enhance and expand upon the cable programming currently in existence for African Americans, the World African Network will be delivered via satellite to the cable systems which have significant coverage of the African-American population.

The network will provide us with the opportunity to promote available African-American productions and talent to the community. It will also endow us with the ability to utilize those same services and talents in launching, promoting and marketing this network."

The launch of the World African Network has been applauded by African-American celebrities, political figures and members of the community across the United States.

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## In Essex County, call:

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9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR

#### THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SALEM

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem, 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079 is receiving bids for Replacement of a Trash Compactor at Broadway Towers, apartment building.

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem, State of New Jersey, The Awarding Authority (hereinafter referred to as "Owner") will receive sealed bids for the work located at 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079 in accordance with Contract Documents prepared together with such addenda as may be issued prior to the date of receipt of bids.

Generally, the work shall include: The removal of an existing trash compactor and replacement with a new unit in a high-rise senior citizens' apartment building.

Bids received and evaluated by period by the Owner on Wednesday, April 28, 1993, at 10:00 a.m. the opening time at the offices of The Housing Authority of the City of Salem, located at 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079. No Bid shall be withdrawn for a period of 60 days subsequent to the bid opening date without the consent of the Housing Authority.

Sealed proposals for a single, over-all contract to General Construction, covering all trades, will be received for all labor and materials to complete the project. Bidders and the successful Contractor and his subcontractors will be required to comply with Affirmative Action Regulations of the State of New Jersey, stipulated in N.J.S.A. 10:5-31-33, and to comply with Chapter 33 of the Public Laws of 1977 and with the requirements of Public Law of 1975, Chapter 127.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality in any bid or bids, to reject any and all bids, and to accept such bids and make such awards as may be in the interest of the Owner.

Bid proposals must be submitted as directed by the Specifications, in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Owner for the Contract for which the proposal is entered, and the name and address of the Bidder.

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to do business in New Jersey which is listed in U.S. Treasury Circular No. 570, or by a certified check in the amount called for in the specifications, made out to The Housing Authority of the City of Hoboken. Proposals must also be accompanied by affidavits, etc., referred to in the Instructions to Bidders in the Specifications. Regardless of whether the Bid Bond or certified check is submitted for proposal guarantee, each bidder shall submit a copy of a Surety Company licensed to do business in New Jersey which is listed in U.S. Treasury Circular No. 570, stating that it will issue the necessary payment and performance bond should the bidder enter into contract for this work with the Housing Authority.

The Drawings, Specifications, Form of Proposal, Contract Forms, and any Addenda and Modifications describing the Work will be furnished, and may be examined at the offices of the Housing Authority of the City of Salem, 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079, on or after Monday, March 1, 1993. Complete Construction Documentation may also be obtained at the offices of the Housing Authority for a non-refundable deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per set. Documents will be mailed at a cost of Fifteen dollar (\$15.00) per set.

This site will generally be available for inspection from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, with the Owner, telephone: (609) 435-5022. When calling please ask for Mr. Anthony Gross. A 24-hr. notice is required to arrange a site visit.

Potential bidders are hereby informed that not less than the minimum prevailing wage rates as required by HUD shall be paid on this project. The Bidder must submit with its bid a notarized affidavit listing all persons owing ten percent (10%) or more of the stock in the corporation submitting the bid, complete with addresses. The successful Bidder will be required to obtain a Payment and Performance Bond for the full amount of the Contract, as defined from a Surety Company licensed to do business in New Jersey and listed in U.S. Treasury Circular No. 570.

This project is being executed with funds provided by the U.S. Government through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

3/31/93, 4/07/93 & 4/14/93

### REQUEST FOR BIDS

A-1. The Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch hereby requests bids from qualified vendors for the installation of electronic data processing equipment and specific software packages to meet the general operational needs of the Authority.

A-2. All firms submitting bids are invited to inspect and survey the Authority's operation. Inspections surveys must be pre-approved by the Authority's contact and must not disrupt the normal operations of the Authority.

A-3. Sealed bids received by the Authority at the following office:

Mr. David A. Brown

Acting Executive Director

Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch  
Administration Building, Garfield Court  
Long Branch, New Jersey 07740

until 10:00 A.M. local time on 3/31/93. Bids received after the stated date and time will not be considered.

A-4. Copies of the request for bids may be obtained from the following:

Housing Authority of the

City of Long Branch

Administration Building, Garfield Court  
Long Branch, New Jersey 07740  
(609) 222-3747

A-5: The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive technicalities and award the contract to the best interested bidder. Bids that do not meet all requirements will be considered non-responsive and eliminated from consideration.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF  
THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH  
DAVID A. BROWN  
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3/24/93

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Asbury Park is seeking proposals from attorneys or law firms to serve as the Authority's General Legal Counsel for the period commencing May 1, 1993 and terminating December 31, 1994. Proposals will be ranked using the following quality/metric factors with the corresponding relative weights:

Factor	Weight
1. Experience in housing authority law and HUO procedures, relative to housing authorities.	45%
2. Experience as counsel to local government authorities and agencies.	25%
3. Experience in the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law and HUO's Procurement requirements at 24 CFR 85.36.	15%
4. Experience with the recovery of possession of rental units under the New Jersey Anti-Eviction Act.	10%
5. Price.	5%

Attorneys submitting proposals to the RFP must be licensed to practice law in the State of New Jersey and must not be under sanction from the bar.

Please note that if you are interested in responding to the RFP you should contact Ms. Nancy Gobin at 609 776-2660, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays and request a detailed RFP, which will more fully state the requirements of the proposal. Proposals must be received by 10:00 a.m., April 15, 1993 in order to be considered.

KENNETH E. NIXON, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3/1/93

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The components of the program are as follows:

- (1) Drug Education Workshops for residents of all ages;
- (2) Camperships for ages 6 to 12;
- (3) Peer Intervention youth counseling programs for ages 13 to 17;
- (4) Cultural trips and activities for youths

to enhance their self-esteem and self-pride;

(5) Provide a substance abuse counselor on-site to provide on-site counseling for residents' families and children;

(6) Consultant must be knowledgeable about HUO rules and regulations regarding procurement and program administration;

(7) Copy of grant application is available at Morristown Housing Authority, or you can submit your proposals to

Mr. Lawrence R. Jackson, Executive Director, Morristown Housing Authority, 31 Early Street, Morristown, New Jersey 07960, no later than April 12, 1993.

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# Sportlight

by R.L. Greene

It was a simple, straightforward statement: Shaquille O'Neal is today's Wilt Chamberlain.

The response was just as quick: "No way."

Of course, the second respondent had ammunition. It started with, "You're too young. You never really saw Wilt in action."

It was a typical discussion between two co-workers. Yet the disagreement really wasn't over the dominating abilities of either Wilt Chamberlain or the man-boy of the Orlando Magic. In reality, it was just another eruption of the generation gap.

Things were always better in our youth, right? So, if you're talking about something bad...

For example...

- We had more big storms and heavier snowfalls when we were kids.

- Our schools taught us better than today's schools are teaching our children.

- There were better movies to see when we were younger, and more of them.

So, it's an easy step to giving the heroes of our youth a super-superstar aura. But, then again, weren't they just that?

Even old-timers will admit the Michael Jordan is the best guard to play in the National Basketball Association. But part of that's because they have the benefit of seeing the players. In our day, the old-timers say, Air Jordan would be soaring from the forward spot, and they're not sure he's that much better, than say, Elgin Baylor, who he sick in his neck and the deadly one-handed jumper in his arsenal of tricks.

At guard, then, would be Oscar

Robertson. Now who can beat the Big O in the backcourt, although, to be honest about it, Jerry West was a super bad dude when it came to shooting and ball-handling? But Oscar was the best.

As good as all of these Hall of Famers were, and as good as today's soaring, swooping, dunking, backboard-rattling stars are, Wilt Chamberlain stood alone.

OK. So he didn't win the championships. That was Bill Russell's forte, leading the Boston Celtics to the title almost every year.

Otherwise, Wilt dominated basketball as no other person has in any other sport. Probably the only record in sports that will never be broken is Chamberlain's averaging 50 points per game in a single season. Today, when Air Jordan scores more than 50 points, it's a big headline.

And when there were complaints that he couldn't rebound as well as Russell, Chamberlain led the NBA in rebounding.

Or his detractors then said. But you're still, just shooting and rebounding. So Wilt led the NBA in assists.

At various points in my career, I led the league in scoring, rebounding, assists and blocked shots. Chamberlain wrote in his book, *A View From Above*. "Show me one other

player in the history of the game who did all that."

In fact, in his entire career, Chamberlain never had a game in which he grabbed fewer than 10 rebounds. But he himself says he had a greater feat.

"In my third season in the NBA, I only missed seven minutes the entire season. I went 51 straight games without missing a minute, then came out for three minutes. In other words, I sat for four minutes."

True, today's game is different. And there's really no way to fairly compare superstars from different eras. Even the record books can be misleading; for example, today's players are better shooters, so there should be fewer rebounds to grab.

Yes, Wilt Chamberlain was a giant during his time. And he was from the first day he stepped onto the court.

Shaquille O'Neal, on the other hand, is a center with loads of ability and tremendous promise. But he's not immediately way better than Patrick Ewing or Hakeem Olajuwon or David Robinson.

He's young and will make mistakes. He's very, very good, maybe not quite as good as that. But comparing him to Wilt???

And remember that snowstorm began in '42. We don't get 'em like that anymore, do we?

## Newark athletics

\*Mayor's Basketball Tournament tips off: Officials of Newark's Division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs (DORCA) recently announced that the "Mayor's Basketball Tournament" will be held April 12-16 at West Side High School's gymnasium, 403 South Orange Avenue.

Registration for the competition

is now open, and the deadline for

completed rosters and refundable fees is April 2. Registration forms can be

obtained at the Recreation/Cultural Affairs division, Room B-23, City Hall.

The refundable application fee

(cash only) must be submitted with

the completed roster. It will be re-

turned if teams do not forfeit any games, the coordinators said.

The tournament teams will consist of four divisions, male and female, and three age categories: 9-14, 15-17 and 18 and over. According to Roslyn Lightfoot, DORCA manager, interested individuals must register quickly because only the first ten teams registered in each division will be selected.

For more information, please contact the DORCA office 201-733-3749.

**Sofball league forms teams:** The organizers of the City of Newark Softball League have announced that league officials are accepting team and indi-

vidual applications for the upcoming softball season.

According to Juanita Jordan, league commissioner, the softball league is open to municipal agencies, corporations and other government offices.

The Newark co-ed softball league's season runs from May 1 to August 30. The games are played at Kastberg Field (North Fifth Street and Third Avenue) and Weequahic Park. Registration forms available in Room B-26 and C-9 of City Hall.

For more information, please contact Jordan, 201-733-3778, or Darlene Tate 201-733-8050.

## As I See It...

(continued from page 4)

.../...

Clinton Williams, husband of school board member Corrina Kay, may have inadvertently been a victim of theIGHTING when his appointment to the Board of Fire Commissioners was rejected by a 4-4 vote.

Anyone who knows Clinton Williams knows he's anything but controversial, and not as politically involved as his retired school principal wife.

Mr. Williams, a retired physio therapist, is quiet, easy going and level headed at all times. He is considered one of Mayor Cooper's outstanding appointments to any city department. This was emphasized by council president Thomas when he chastised the council for not supporting Williams, especially since no one had raised any questions about the appointment beforehand.

Blake, Thigpen, Thomas and Charles Robinson, Jr. supported Williams for the unsalaried post. Claude Craig, Carolyn Meacham, Mary Patterson and Assemblywoman Councilwoman Quilla Talmadge voted against him.

Meantime, Mayor Cooper had won Williams into on an acting basis. He had attended a meeting and participated in a crucial vote and was thought to have the votes necessary to make his post official when the council met last week.

But then again, it goes to show nothing is "official" in East Orange these days until it's a done deal. Ahhh, sweet mystery of politics in this once quiet suburban enclave.

Next week: as tale of two cities. What happened when Governor Florio showed up for Mayor Sharpe James' birthday bash; and the governor meeting with Rev. Dr. DeForest (Buster) Squires, Jr., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Garden in Somerset, New Jersey.

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<b>Pathadryl</b>	\$1.24	<b>Pathadine</b>	\$3.49
<b>Denorex Shampoo</b>	\$7.99	<b>Pedia Care Cold Allergy Tablets</b>	\$5.49
<b>Denorex Shampoo</b>	\$7.99	<b>Pedia Care Liquid Cough-Cold</b>	\$5.49
<b>Pedia Care Night Rest</b>	\$5.49	<b>Pilot Spot Lighter</b>	99¢
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*Salute to*  
**The Black Church**

# Walk in the Spirit

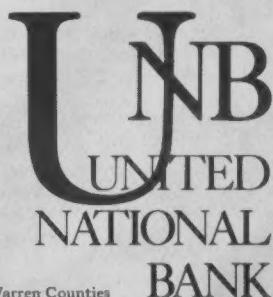
*But the fruit of the Spirit  
is love, joy, peace,  
longsuffering,  
gentleness,  
goodness, faith,  
Meekness, temperance:  
against such  
there is no law.  
And they that are  
Christ's have crucified  
the flesh with the  
affections and lusts.  
If we live in the Spirit,  
let us also  
walk in the Spirit.  
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of vain glory, provoking  
one another, envying  
one another.*

— Galatians 5:22-26



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# Rebuilding the black church

*Black ministers speak out on the problems facing the black church and urban communities*

by Nicol Diarra Davis

For a community that has been denied opportunities and identity, the black church has historically been a strong support mechanism.

Beginning during the era of slavery, the black church was the only source of refuge from the daily indignities on the plantations. Preachers spoke of salvation that gave blacks strength to continue each day.

When slavery was abolished, the church introduced blacks to education. Many of the historically black colleges were founded by the institution of the black church.



Rev. Reginald Jackson of St. Matthew's A.M.E. Church in Orange

During the civil rights era, the black church gave rise to many of the leaders that were at the forefront of the Movement. Due in part to the fact that black preachers were expected to be teachers, educators, counselors and orators, church leaders such as Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Andrew Young, Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Rev. Benjamin Hooks were able to inspire the black community to fight for equality and justice.

Today, with the many ills infecting the black community, the black church seems to be losing its influence over its people. Many in the community have lost faith in the church's ability to deliver salvation.

In a time when many church leaders are criticized for their passiveness, Rev. Reginald Jackson of St. Matthew's A.M.E. Church in Orange is far from reticent when it comes to the subject of the problems confronting the black church and urban communities. According to Rev. Jackson, the black church is the only thing that the black community truly owns. It should serve, therefore, as the community's source of power, or empowerment.

"The black church in the urban community, one, must call our community to task for its own sins; and, two, play a leadership role in helping to shape what that community will be like," Jackson says.

The pastor said that making the Gospel of Jesus Christ relevant to the community is one of the most pressing challenges confronting the black church.

"Not because it's

not relevant but because we are not doing a good job of helping people relate to it in their daily living," he explains.

He feels that empowerment of the community is another big problem.

"It's a problem because we're really not empowering the community. We've allowed the political folk, educational folk, social scientists, [etc.,] to try to do that, and it really hasn't worked," the Reverend says. "For example, we have more black elected officials than we've ever had; the community is not better. We have more money now than we've ever had; we have more people who are poor than we've ever had."

Jackson says that quality of life in the community seems to go down with the more 'things' it obtains, "So it's not so much things that change community, it's the people; and unless you change people, you're not going to change the community."

Jackson also says that the black church needs to have enough faith and courage "to be faithful to the path before us." This means, he claims, that it is the responsibility of the church to be faithful and courageous enough to call its community to task for its sins.

"For example, consider the fact that in the United States, we have more children born out of wedlock than we have born in wedlock," he explains. "We have moral values which have declined while immoral behavior has dramatically increased; we have black on black crime; we have the break up of the black family. The black church has to speak to its own community and they have to take responsibility for how we have done these things to ourselves."

The pastor says that blacks can not continue to blame everyone else for "what's wrong" with them, especially when they often allow themselves to be get down.

He noted the fact that Newark, East Orange, Orange and Irvington are predominantly black cities with black mayors and black council.

"You can not blame other folk for the condition of these cities all together when in fact you're the one who's making the

(continued on page A-5)

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# 'We Are One'

The following speech was given by Roger Shults before Mt. Zion AME Church in 1991. Though some of the references were made to events and situations of the time that may no longer exist, the message in the speech is still extremely relevant today. It embodies the message that City News would like to pass on in this special Black Church edition.

by Roger Shults

I have given this talk the title "We Are One." My theme is that we are one people and we can only realize the dream of freedom, justice, and equality for all if we unite and work together.

In I Cor., 12 the Apostle Paul paints a verbal picture of the church and compares it to our human body. He makes the point that the body parts are diverse yet united. Two verses in the passage are especially relevant to what I will say.

12:14-*For the body is not one member, but many.*

12:20-*But now are they many member, yet but one body.*

The parallel I make is that we are identified as a group of people, yet we are all individuals. And regardless of our individuality and uniqueness, we are still part of the group.

My purpose this morning is to present a few thoughts in the spirit of commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. His birthday is recognized as a state and national holiday only because of the hard work of elected black legislators. However, in spite of laws that have been passed, some states refuse to recognize it and most private corporations ignore it.

Martin Luther King Jr. stood as a "voice crying in the wilderness" of America's hatred, prejudice, and injustice. While he lived, he spoke the truth about conditions in America and uncovered, for the world to see, the scandalous way that black people in this country were treated. Like Moses standing before the Egyptian Pharaoh, he stood before the politically powerful pleading for justice and equality. And like an Isaiah, he cried aloud, spared not, and lifted up his voice like a trumpet in the cause of freedom.

Dr. King delivered his most well known speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington on August 28 of 1963. In the speech he acknowledged the trials, tribulations, persecution, and suffering that some of his hearers had experienced. How they made personal sacrifices to advance the cause of liberty; and, through personal and direct involvement in the Civil Rights movement, they moved toward the principle of justice. He concluded the speech by recounting his dream that equality, freedom, and justice would become a reality for all citizens of America.

Some of us remember that speech because we were there. Others because we heard it on radio or TV. Do you remember what was happening in the country at the time? Do you remember what led the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement to call on its followers to peacefully assemble and march in protest on this nation's government? Do you remember sit-ins, freedom rides, Brown vs. Board of Education, National Guard troops, bus boycotts, and nonviolent demonstrations? And, if you grew up in this area, do you remember how you were treated in the old Oxford Theater, the Liberty

Theater, or at Grunnings?

Dr. King eloquently gave voice to the hopes and aspirations of black Americans and other disenfranchised people of these United States. He spoke for them when he spoke about his dream for this country: That equal justice and equal opportunity would be a reality for all. King led a movement that pressed toward a goal and achieved dramatic results. He was at the forefront of the Movement that gave birth to the Civil Rights Bill, and saw the Fair Housing Bill, and the Voting Rights Bill signed into law. It was a movement that led to Equal Employment, Affirmative Action and was instrumental in making equal educational opportunity the law of the land.

*For the body is not one member, but many.*

-I Cor. 12:14

*But now are they many member, yet but one body.*

-I Cor. 12:20

The status of black Americans in 1991 is far different from what it was in 1963. Progress has been made. We can ride in the front of the bus (they even let us drive it), and use the same waiting room as other travelers. We can go in the front door and eat at the lunch counter. We can drink from the same water fountain; we can use the same restrooms; we can register at the same motels and hotels. We are on the television every night as newscasters. Blacks occupy positions of importance in the government, private business, and the military. There are even black corporations which have made outstanding progress in growing their business and serving all segments of society.

*We have come a long way.*

By many measurements, blacks are doing better today than they were in 1963. Our life expectancy has increased. More of our boys and girls are graduating from high school. More of our young people are graduating from college today. And we have increased the number of black elected officials by over 400%.

*It seems like we are on the way.*

We are getting better jobs. One source estimated that about 50% of us are in white collar or skilled craft jobs. The February issue of Black Enterprise Magazine has a series

*In spite of the progress that has been made and the good that exists, there is too much wrong for us to say we have arrived.*

of articles about career opportunities for the 1990's. It shows a number of our people, employed in all industries, who are vice presidents, managers, partners, and owners. They hold responsible jobs — that

(continued on page A-6)

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New Jersey Governor Jim Florio

by Michelle Odom

"I derive great strength and inspiration from what I see and what I hear here today," said Governor Jim Florio, "because it tells me that there is a hunger coming together; there is a hunger for economic empowerment; there is a hunger for an understanding that we must seek after not only

justice in its narrowest sense, but economic justice in the broadest sense of the word..."

This theme was highlighted during the Second Annual Economic Empowerment Expo, held last weekend in New Brunswick, sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Community Development Corporation in Somerset.

Rev. Dr. Buster Soaries, pastor of First Baptist Church, said the Expo "was a great success.

"It represents our commitment to economic empowerment and using the resources of our church to circulate economic opportunities around our community," he said.

"We wanted to give African-

American businesses a chance to be exposed to the community to let people know who they are," said Eric Johnson, chairperson of the weekend-long event which featured display booths for 57 minority business people, book signing receptions and free tax preparation services for the elderly.

"A lot of these folks don't have store fronts and don't really have the wherewithal to advertise, so this gave them a chance for exposure," said Johnson. "We also had some corporate representation, which gave people who sell goods and services a chance to meet corporate people that do purchasing, and get exposed that way as well."

In his speech, the governor said he has been talking to people all over the state "to make sure that we don't do things that are counterproductive" to the objec-

tive of ameliorating the crime and poverty in New Jersey's urban areas.

"Wherever it is we're going as a state, ladies and gentlemen, we're going there together," he said, "and hopefully it is not going to be that we will go to the swamp of division, the swamp of despair, but rather what we want to do is to go to the high ground of hope, the high ground of opportunity. That's what we're all about."

Instead of dealing with people's sometimes violent and destructive reactions to poverty with more violence and destruction, Florio explained that some sectors of the community are taking a more positive problem-solving approach through development of locally-owned and controlled businesses and social services.

Governor Florio praised New

Community Corporation in Newark, which provides affordable housing, daycare services, and a supermarket to the community.

"And that's what it is — people coming together and being empowered through collaboration on the economic front, and of course that helps the community," the governor said. "If you lift the community, you start dealing with some of the pathologies — creating jobs, being able to take care of children, providing homes — those things are fully compatible with the message and the reason we are here today."

The First Baptist Community Development Corporation, like New Community, is a not-for-profit organization founded to sponsor economic and social initiatives of benefit to the surrounding communities, New Brunswick

(continued on page A-13)

## Rebuilding the black church

(continued from page A-3)

basic decisions," Jackson says. "The black church has to address those issues. We can no longer simply put people in office because they're black. . . You really need a definition of black. It can no longer be a color only; it must also be a state of mind."

Rev. Jackson said that the black church needs to begin to help the community to define the issues. He discussed the State's Quality Education Act, under which money that was earmarked for suburban school districts was to be pumped into urban, predominantly black school districts. The suburban districts were against the plan and proposed that it be repealed.

"That repeal would have never occurred if the blacks in the general assembly didn't vote for it; but every single one of them voted to repeal it," said Jackson. "That means they took money from urban schools to give back to suburban schools, which are much better than those in the inner city."

"And again, there were very few black preachers in the black church who said anything about it. We do nothing to hold our own accountable for anything."

Jackson also discussed the March issue of "The New Jersey Law Journal" that detailed the indictment of County Chairman Tom D'Alessio

and questioned the fundraising tactics of Newark Mayor Sharpe James.

"Isn't it a strange thing when they can raise almost a million dollars with the 'Friends of this person' and the 'Friends of that person,' but can't find \$200,000 to have a summer recreation program in the inner city," notes Jackson.

"Those are the kinds of issues that the church of necessity must raise," Jackson says. "And it's not because you're for some-

body or against somebody; but it's because you're for improving the quality of life of your city."

Jackson concluded, "Those are the kinds of things that I mean by defining issues and setting priorities."

City News asked other black pastors throughout the area what they feel are the three most pressing problems confronting

(continued on page A-6)



Rev. George N. Frederick, pastor of Calvary Roseville United Methodist Church in East Orange

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# 'We Are One'

(continued from page A-4)

would have only been a dream for us in 1963.

We almost have it made.

Look at some of our people who enjoy prominence today. General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who coordinates the unfortunate war currently taking place in the Mid-East. Art Shell, first black, head-football coach in the NFL, whose Los Angeles Raiders will be competing for the right to play in the Super Bowl. Then there is Ron Brown, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Thurgood Marshall, a distinguished jurist on the Supreme Court. Finally there are Douglas Wilder, governor of Virginia and David Dinkins, mayor of New York.

*It seems like we have arrived.*

Yes, things are different, and by many measures, they are better for us today. But that is not the whole story. Things are not going well for everyone who is black. There is another side of the story that is not pleasant, but it is one that we know only too well. For you notice that the media emphasizes this other side almost to the total exclusion of the positives I previously mentioned.

What is the other side? The other side is how we compare with other groups in the country, and what we are doing to ourselves as people. I will spare you the boredom of repeating the statistics that detail how bad we are doing

*Like it or not, believe it or not, accept it or not, black people are inextricably bound together. Rich or poor, educated or not, light or dark, Methodist or Baptist, we are bound together.*

as a group in areas such as average black family income, black unemployment, black female heads of house, and even about the number of black people in jail. But allow me to share this — 25% of black men in their 20's are in jail, on probation, or on parole. In the inner cities, one of the

leading causes of death for black males between ages 15 and 24 is homicide. They are killing themselves over drugs, 8-ball jackets and to prove how "bad" they are.

What else is the other side of the story? Drugs, substance abuse, children having children, inadequate health care, poor housing, low self esteem, AIDS, glass ceilings, no hope, and no prospects, just to name a few.

In spite of the progress that has been made and the good that exists, there is too much wrong for us to say we have arrived. You may think that you are above these problems, and that they will never touch you or your family; that you have risen to a level of power and influence on your job, and that your income level insulates you from these problems. As a matter of fact you may even begin to refer to your less fortunate brothers and sisters as "those people."

But consider this: If you have a daughter, who is she going to marry? Whose taxes are they going to increase to keep "those people" in jail? When your head hits that corporate "glass ceiling," the one that stops your growth and prevents you from being promoted to the positions you

(continued on page A-9)

# Rebuilding the black church

(continued from page A-5)

the black church today. City News also asked them what role they see the black church playing in urban communities.

According to Rev. Jerry Sanders, pastor of Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, one of the most pressing issues confronting the black church is the fact that it is losing its leadership position within the community.

"Because we've lost sight of our spiritual role we've also lost our leadership role in many other areas in the community," he says.

According to Sanders, the primary role of the black church in dealing with urban community is to provide spiritual leader-

ship.

"Out of providing spiritual leadership, we have to automatically provide leadership in every other facet of life," he says "Black church has always traditionally been, the hub of the black community, because . . . we believe that all of life is sacred. We never believed in life being sacred and secular; it was all of God. Therefore everything of life had some sort of spiritual significance. For the black church, if we get back to being spiritual leaders, we will automatically be political leaders, social leaders, as well as religious leaders within the community."

Sanders also feels that the church must deal with the problems that affect young

people, "because what affects our young people affects us," as well as the issue of health.

"The issue of health, especially with AIDS, is an issue that we in the church need to address more than we have in the past. This also means that as we deal with AIDS we have to deal with the issues of condoms, teen pregnancy and all of the things that we try to avoid talking about. We have to deal with them because all of them are threatening our community," he says.

According to Rev. George N. Frederick, pastor of Calvary Roseville United Methodist Church in East Orange, the church must convince the people in the com-

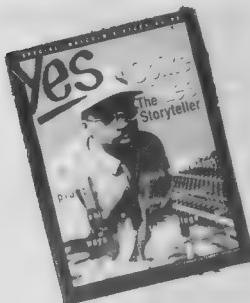
munities "of the importance of Christ and the fact that Christ can make a difference in their lives, even in this particular age."

The Reverend feels that the church must help to rebuild the family structure and to provide for the needs of the people.

"Not just simply the spiritual needs of people," he says, "but the various needs that people have from time to time including social, educational, etc."

Frederick also says that, because the urban communities are changing very quickly and are making some very high demands upon people who live in the areas, the church has to be supportive and out in front to provide direction for the commu-

(continued on page A-8)



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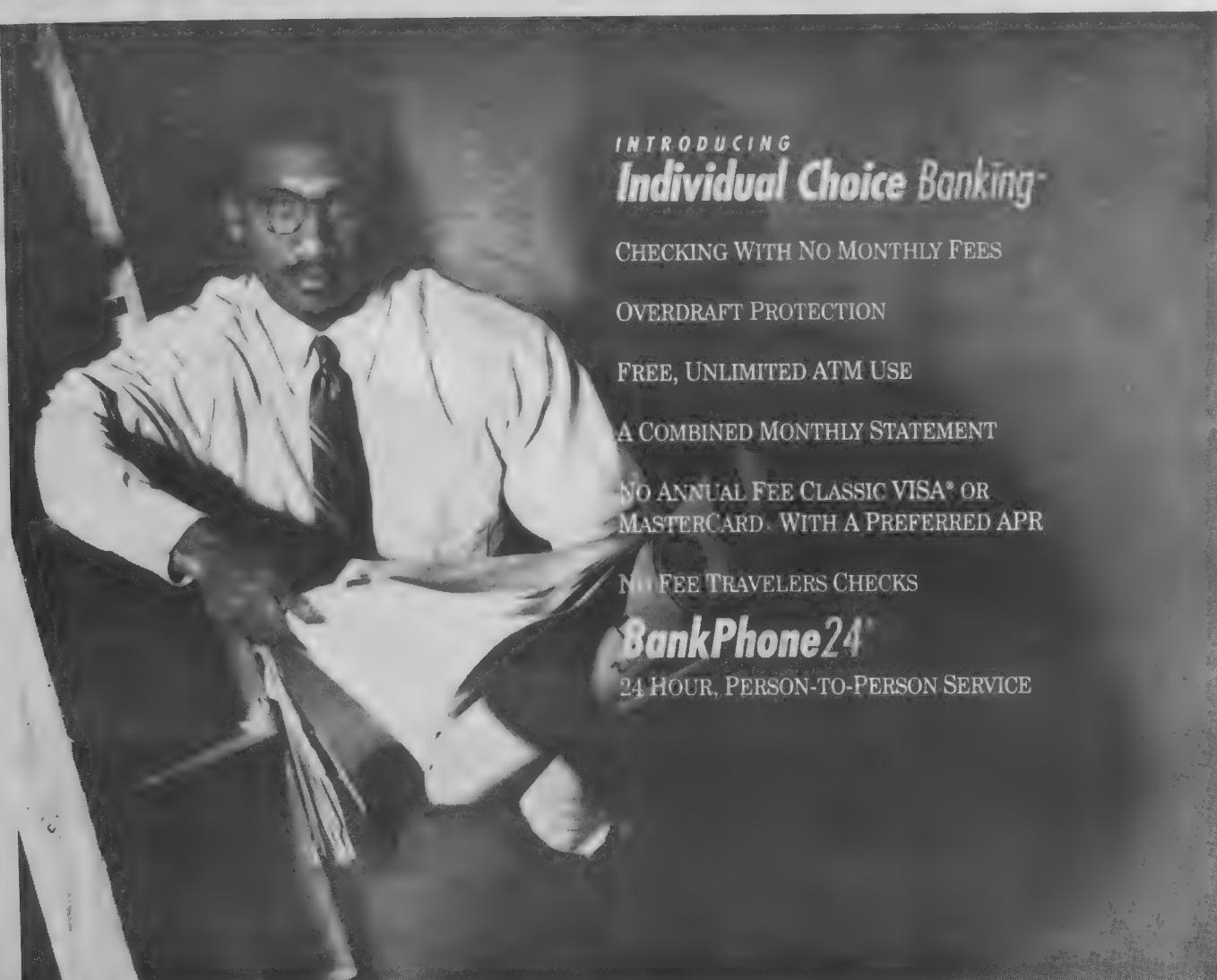
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# *Rebuilding the black church*

(continued from page A-6)

"Almost like being a prophet," he concluded.

Rev. Kelmo Porter, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains says, "There are an awful lot of problems affecting us today."

Pastor Porter says that the economic crisis that seems to be plaguing the American people affect, primarily, the black male.

"If he can't properly provide for his people, he's really not a religious creature," says Porter. "He can better serve God when he has a good home, good meals and somewhere for his children to go to school. So you can't isolate the economics from religion."

Another great problem affecting the church, according to Porter, is society's subtle discrimination against the black church.

"People give lip service to the Christian religion, but the black church finds that it often stands alone," Porter says. "We are pressed to support things like the holocaust and other social issues of people who are not of color, but usually when it comes to problems that affect us and as it relates to Dr. Martin Luther King and others, we find it very very hard in our society to get a real honest following of the white community."

Finally, Porter says that the black church has lost much of its roots — its firm belief in the Christian religion and Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

"We put more emphasis on economics.

We put more emphasis on materialism and trying to keep up with the Joneses, and we seem to be losing much of the fervor in our church that we've known over the years," he says. "We have to get back to the old time way, where we believe that Christ is the answer for all of our problems and I think that if we can really do that, we won't have as many problems with our children, with our schools and with our community."

When it comes to the role of the black church in urban communities, Pastor Porter explains that, since he has been a minister in the suburbs for the past 25 to 30 years, he is not too familiar with the church in "real urban society."

He says, however, "I think that the church should be the beacon light and should be the primary institution in the community, addressing issues as they relate to schools as they relate to economics instead of just isolating yourselves and talking about going to heaven. We have to concern ourselves about the homeless, about the AIDS situation that's in our society. The church should reach out into the community, and do all it can to make the community a better place in which to live. . If we do that, our churches will be much stronger, and will be better in both urban and also in our suburban society."

Rev. Robert Newbold, pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Plainfield, says, "I feel that the three most pressing problems facing the black church today are that of making the message and the mission of the

(continued on page A-11)



Rev. Robert Newbold, pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Plainfield

# We are one, uniting as a people

(continued from page A-6)

ear, who is going to listen to your complaints? Who is the drug addict going to rob when they see your expensive watch, gold chains, mink coat, or luxury car? When you

*[Various groups] should get beyond the personality cliques and ego trips of individual leaders. They should get beyond meeting for the purpose of seeing each other, and get to the point where the meetings are focused on creating solutions to the numerous challenges that face us.*

are in your casual clothes driving your car through a strange white neighborhood and you are stopped by the police, what makes you sure they won't mistake you for one of "those people?"

Like it or not, believe it or not, accept it or not, black people are inextricably bound together. Rich or poor, educated or not, light or dark, Methodist or Baptist, we are bound together. For most of us, our ethnicity, our race, is the first thing most people notice. And, with the exception of sports and entertainment, our ethnicity supersedes the position or title we might possess.

How often have you heard someone referred to as the black manager, the black doctor, the black nurse, the black officer. In the minds of others, our racial identity supersedes the role we play, the function we perform, or the contribution we make. We may be black and proud, and cease to view racial distinctions as important in our minds; or we might be black and ashamed and try to deny what we are. Regardless of where we fit, we can't be blind to the truth and the facts — other people condition their acceptance of us based on our ethnicity.

This point was underscored even as I prepared for this talk. In using the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature I was struck with the number of classifications they give to black people. A few were: Black Athletes, Black Ambassadors, Black Consumers, Black Education, Black Family, Black Management.

I started to wonder how do they classify white people? So I turned to the section marked "W" and looked up white. I found White, Elizabeth Ann, and the names of

several other individuals whose last name is White, but I found none of the numerous classifications that I did under black.

I then turned to black and continued reading Black Mayors, Black Physicians, Black Press, Black Women, Black Workers. You may be asking what is the point? The point is that in this country, if you ever forget who you are or what you are, there are a lot of people who will help you to remember.

But we also need to remember, every

now and then, where we came from and how we got to where we are; that we have "climbed the rough side of the mountain" to get to where we are. It was not on flower beds of ease that we made progress. It was through many dangers, toils, and snares we have already come. It was through the lynching of our fathers and brothers, through the bombing of our homes and churches, through murders, through terrorism, through the abuse of our women, the beating of our children. It was through

these and other unspoken horrors that the Movement persevered. King may have been the spokesman for the movement and the leader while he lived, but it was grace that brought us safe thus far, and it is grace that will lead us home.

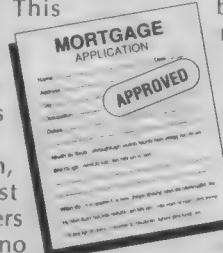
As we remember the gallant sacrifices made by so many unknown and unsung soldiers of civil rights battles past and gone, let us consider that if progress is

(continued on page A-12)

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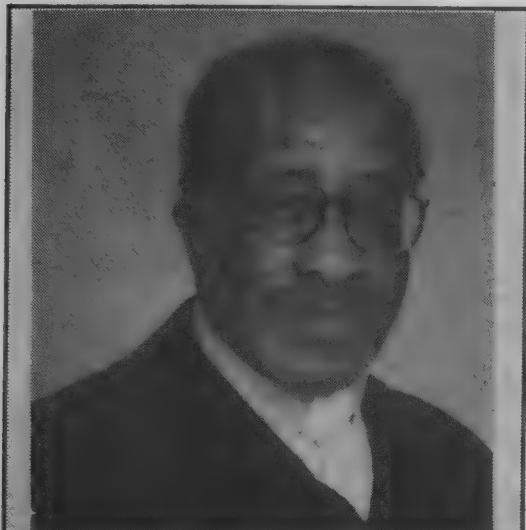
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# Rebuilding the Black Church



**Rev. Donald Nichols, Sr., pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Plainfield**

(continued from page A-8)

church relevant to conditions as they exist today; secondly, applying ministry and [thirdly] all efforts in terms of helping the black males in the church and the black family experience stability."

He says that there are several roles that the black church should play in urban communities. He focused on two: "One is that the black church needs to seek every opportunity to work with social

agencies, governmental agencies, philanthropic agencies to improve, in all areas, the community. Secondly, I think the black church's congregations in our communities need to work together. The job of changing the face of any community or city is too mammoth for any one congregation, and so we need to learn the importance of working together."

According to Rev. Donald

Hilliard, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, the black church is confronted with the problems of family, economics and education.

"I think a lot of the problem has been due to a break down of moral code and spiritual nurture," he says. "We need to renew our faith in God and our commitment to the church."

Hilliard notes that the black church has historically "been a strong place; a place of teaching, a place where we developed our code of ethics."

"I think for the church to really make a difference we're going to have to put a great deal of emphasis on spiritual renewal, family development and nurture the family, in which ever way it is represented," he says. "I don't just mean a husband and wife, I mean a mother and children, grandmother and children, aunts and children."

Hilliard says the black church can play a pivotal role in the lives of the people in the community, by way of programs and outreach, such as an economic empowerment ministry that is aimed to meet the needs of the community.

Rev. Moses A. Knott, Jr., pastor of Imani Baptist Church of Christ in East Orange, says that the first problem confronting the

black church is understanding the role of the church in society.

"The church is not limited to worshipping God on Sunday morning, but is involved in everyday living of people," says Knott.

According to the Reverend, the health of the people, including AIDS, and the education of young people — not only formal education, but reminding them of who they are; what the role of their people has been historically and what is expected of them — are also pressing problems.

"I hope the black church will become the nuclear of the community like it once was, with its arms reaching out into every facet of life — good jobs, good education, faith, secure communities, good homes. That's the role I see," Knott concluded.

"The things that we're facing in society, crime, drugs, unemployment, these things all have a way of affecting the church," says Rev. Donald Nichols, Sr., pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Plainfield. "I think we have our work cut out for us. . . Even though the church itself is still thriving, even in these

economic times, the church is still flourishing."

According to Nichols, the church has to play an activist role in the community.

"It really has to go out and meet the problem head on," he says. "You can't always sit in church because the things don't come to you. We should be activists, going out and doing what we can in the community, wherever we can."

According to Rev. Leroy



**Rev. Leroy Lyons, pastor of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Plainfield**

Lyons, pastor of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Plainfield,

(continued on page A-12)

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# We are one, by accepting responsibility

(continued from page A-9)

going to be made in 1991 we have to pick up the blood stained banner, put on our armament and go forward. We have to do it. If the dream of freedom and justice for all is worth pursuing, then we have to run after it. If the principles on which this country is founded are the just entitlements of all its citizens, we must continue to press our cause.

We must unite as a people and work for making the dream of "freedom and justice for all" a reality in these United States. And, we must be supportive of each other's efforts. Even though our different groups are not working on the same projects, we must be supportive of each other.

There is strength in unity.

*If our problems are going to be solved, the solutions are going to come from us.*

The varied and separate groups that are working to do good should come together so their effectiveness can be multiplied. They should get beyond the personality cliques and ego trips of individual leaders. They should get beyond meeting for the purpose of seeing each other, and get to the point where the meetings are focused on creating solutions to the numerous challenges that face us.

It is crucial that we be united and supportive of each other. We must accept responsibility for ourselves and start asking "What can we do to help?" As long as we talk only about what the government is or is not doing or talk only about "those white folks," we don't see our responsibilities. The question is not "What are they going to do for us?" but rather "What are we

going to do to help ourselves?"

The solutions to our problems are not going to come from people who have no interest or concern about us; they are not going to come from people who fear us or see us as threats. The solutions to our problems are not going to come from people who patronize us or act like they are doing us a favor by giving us what we are entitled to. The solutions to our problems are not even going to come from our "friends."

There are white people of good will, who out of pure and sincere motives, have given support to our cause. They have done this without thought of what they would get out of it. They have given and sacrificed in the interest of freedom and justice. While we can accept help, we can't wait for help.

If our problems are going to be solved, the solutions are going to come from us. We must define the problems. We must develop solutions. We must plan how we

are going to implement the solutions, and then, we must work together.

We must accept responsibility for ourselves. We must be clear about our objectives, and we must support people, groups, and organizations that will help us. Most importantly, when we support someone, let's hold them accountable for results. Let's stop supporting those who are long on promises and short on performance, stop supporting those who see us only as a group to be manipulated for their own selfish ends. The power is in our hands to help ourselves.

We all have read of, and even know, individuals who sacrifice to help the less fortunate. Those people, for example, who are helping children and serving as men-

tors for fatherless boys; those people who are training unskilled young men, or teaching young girls the skills of mothering. These people don't help because of what they can gain. Why? Because the people they are helping have nothing to give. They help out of a sense of responsibility to the community, because they are committed to their people and feel they should "give something back."

*We need to change our attitude from 'I can't do because of' to 'I can do in spite of.'*

We need to change our attitude about whose responsibility it is to solve our problems. We also need an attitude change about each other. Those who "have" must change their attitude about the "have nots." It must change from disgust and disdain to understanding that "here but for the grace of God go I." The "have nots" must take

(continued on page A-13)

# Rebuilding the black church

(continued from page A-11)

the problems are not the same for all churches and for all denominations. He says that the black church that's urban has a different problem than the black church that is the suburban.

"For instance, one of the problems I see is leadership," Lyons explains. "When I say leadership I'm not thinking on the top level like the clergy or even the leaders of groups, but that secondary level of leadership, where people have to get down into the trenches; but so many people don't have the time."

Lyons says that, since the world is so complex today, people have so many responsibilities and pressing things to do each day — commuting to work, working long hours, two jobs — that they really don't have much time for anything else.

"It's like working with a set of burnt out people," he says.

Lyons says that lack of volunteers is one of the biggest problems facing the church and it, in turn, affects the way the church can handle other problems.

"The church's energy is volunteer," he explains. "Hence, when you don't have that kind of leadership, then the role models to help young children and teenagers isn't there and then there are problems that go with that."

The church should always provide leadership, according to Lyons.

"The black church has over the years provided political leadership, economic

leadership, social leadership, as well as moral leadership and I think it should still be the same today," he says. "We don't seem to have the resources. . . We're not getting the kind of help [we need], so it's very difficult to provide leadership."

Rev. Theodore Calhoun, pastor of St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church in Westfield says, the African-American community should reclaim its identity with the predominantly black church.

"I think we need to do a mental replay as to the part the black church played in the revolutions in the 1960's," he says.

Calhoun also says that the African-American community needs to be more supportive of each other and become a part of the team, instead of being just spectators.

Finally, Calhoun says, "I think most importantly, one of the struggles that we're having in and outside of our church is the lack of knowledge as to the definition of the church as the Holy Word defines it. I think that we need to seek knowledge through studying the Holy Word to really understand the purpose of this institution and the power that this institution can have."

The pastor says that the church should establish programs and have the proper facilities to meet the needs of the people within the communities that it serves. In order to do that, however, the church needs support.

"We're not getting adequate support to facilitate these programs within our

churches. . . We need to be able to reach out, but, in order to do that, we need the support of our community," he concluded.

Rev. Jerry W. Henry, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield says that the church has strayed away from its "first love."

"Its responsibility is to preach and teach God's Word," he says. "The Word is what will equip the members of a local church to functioning the world we live in. He says that the black church has to regain its courage and take the lead in prescribing remedies for the ills in the black community."

"For too long we have allowed the secular world to lead us in their remedies for healing the world, remedies which have yielded little or no success," says the pastor.

He also says the church is too easily herded into issues and agendas that do not reflect its standards and principles: "We expend too much time, energy, and influence on issues and agendas that are, in



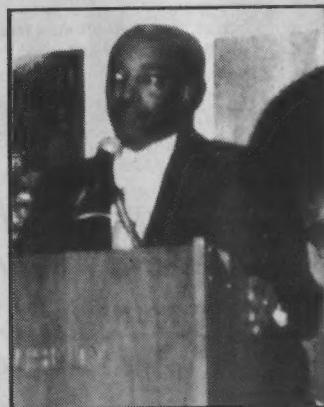
Rev. Jerry W. Henry, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield

many cases, diametrically opposed to the principles and standards of the church."

According to Henry, the church has a major role in the community — to influence the community for good.

"This is done when the church insures that each of its members understands and is inspired to live and promote the standards and principles of the church and Christ in every area of life and living," he says. ■

# Economic Empowerment Expo



Rev. Dr. Buster Soaries, pastor of First Baptist Church

## 'We Are One'

(continued from page A-12)

the chip off their shoulder, stop feeling sorry for themselves, and stop thinking that everyone that has more than they do owes them something. We must stop tearing each other down and start building each other up. Rather than ridiculing each other's mistakes, we need to be encouraging each other to do better. Rather than quarreling and competing, we need to be cooperating and collaborating.

We need to change our attitude from "I can't do because of" to "I can do in spite of." We are survivors. Our history as a people is filled with examples of individuals who have survived persecution and injustice; individuals who made achievements in spite of the tremendous odds that were against them.

And what is achievement anyway? Is it just fame, fortune, and position? Absolutely not!!! All of us know of people who have lived lives of quiet dignity and respect; whose achievements can be measured in terms of their stable marriages, good home lives, solid families, steady employment, and faithful stewardship. They are not famous in the world, but they are all solid citizens and productive members of society. They are building up their communities by helping when needed, and giving when able. They have invested their time putting a rung on the ladder of life on which future generations can stand; and they are people who also know that genuine achievement occurs when there is patient and persistent pursuit of a proper purpose. They are people who know that achievement stands on a firm foundation of service, not the shifting sands of show, glitter, and appearances. And lastly, they are people who know that the achievement made today must be guarded vigilantly or it may be lost tomorrow.

We also need a balanced view of ourselves, of other people and of the country we live in. We can't cry discrimination and prejudice because situations don't develop to favor us. Black isn't right just because its black. White isn't wrong just because its white. Not all black people are for you and not all white people are against you.

We need to look at ourselves in terms of the contribution we can make, then we need to make it. We then need to look at others in terms of the help they need, and be willing to offer it. And let's be clear that helping someone is not doing for them what they should do for themselves. I believe the Peace Corps said, "Give a man a fish and you

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(continued from page A-5)

plans to spark the development of day care centers, strip malls along Route 27, housing, and educational programs.

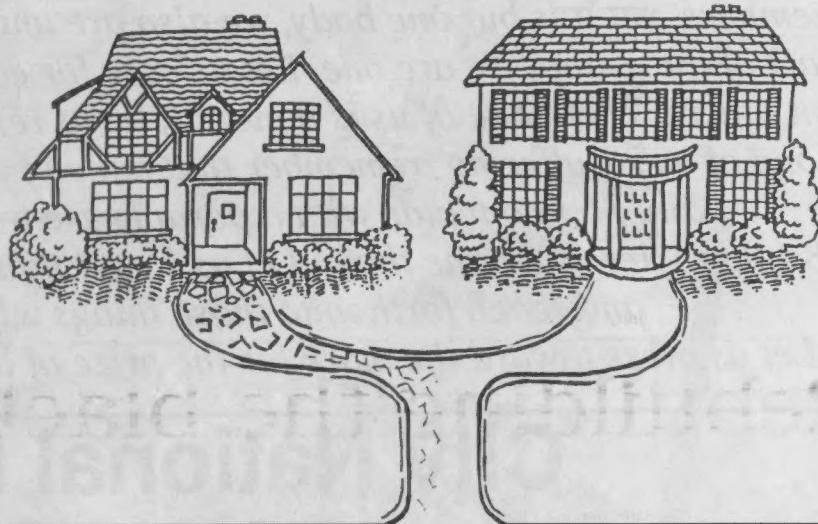
According to Johnson, the goal of developing minority businesses "is critically important." He pointed to the philosophy of Joe Dudley, president of Dudley Products Company in North Carolina, and keynote speaker at the luncheon.

"His philosophy, and ours as well, is that if we can't trade among ourselves, if we can't develop enterprises

among ourselves, then we're really doomed to failure as a people," he said. "This enterprise, as well as the one we did last year, and the ones we'll do in the future, are developmental in nature.

"Our vision is that years from now we won't need to have an expo. Our business community will be so varied and so vital and so vibrant that the idea of having an expo will be passé, and instead we'll have trade missions to Africa or mall openings and things of that nature."

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# 'We Are One'

(continued from page 13)

for a life." We need to teach our people how to fish. It takes more effort and time, but continued progress can not be made if only half of us are working.

We need to share ideas and information with each other, networking across and within

the political, economic, educational, legal, and social arenas in which we are involved. Life is so interrelated that we hurt ourselves and slow up our own progress by keeping each other out and hiding information.

Our political leaders must press to change laws that work against us, and enact

laws that will help us. They must continue to expose the hidden deceitfulness and opposition of people who present themselves as our friends, but are in truth our enemies. Our legal experts must defend us in court, litigate us out of trouble, and protect us from a system that would im-

prison us. Our educators must protect our young boys from being damaged by a system designed to hurt them; and they must educate the parents about how to help their children. Our business leaders must survive and help build a base of economic strength in our communities.

*All of us must work diligently in our lives to be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us. Just as the body is not one member but many, so too we are a people of many individuals. Like the body which has many members, yet it is but one body, we also are unique persons, yet we are all part of the group. We are one. Let us care for each other; we can't depend on others. When one of us is honored, let us rejoice with them. And when one of us is suffering, remember that none of us ever really escapes the pain. So I conclude with a paraphrase from Phil. 3:13 & 14;*

*- Brethren, let us do one thing. Let us forget those things which are behind, and reach forth unto those things which are before.*

*Let us press toward the mark for the prize of liberty and justice for all. ■*

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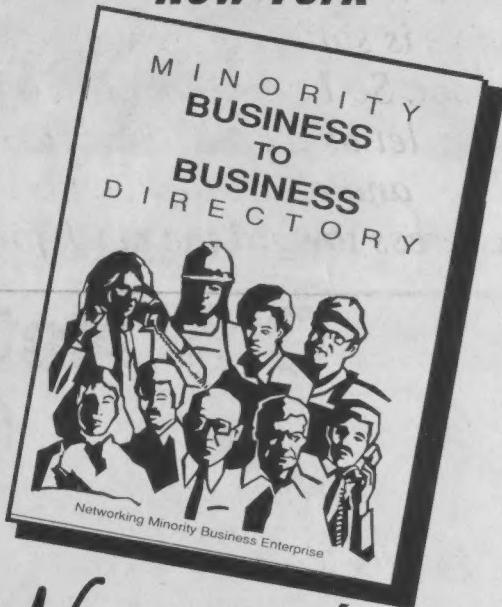


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